

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend Claims 8, 10-18, and 20 and add new Claims 21 and 22 as follows.

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing web content objects ~~efficiently~~ across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the method on an intermediate node comprising the steps of:

receiving a multicast packet;

determining one or more "next hops" that the multicast packet should be forwarded to; ~~and~~

forwarding one copy of the multicast packet to each of the "next hops"; ~~and~~

sending ACKs and/or NAKs between an intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit.

9. (Original) The method as defined in claim 8, wherein the determining and forwarding steps use a Small Group Multicast scheme.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

repetitively executing the determining and forwarding steps for a plurality of one or more multicast packets.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast packet transmission; and
performing multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 8, wherein the multicast packet comprises a small group multicast packet.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including instructions for distributing web content objects ~~efficiently~~ across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

receiving a multicast packet containing address information for a set of destinations;

determining the "next hops" for those destinations; ~~and~~

replicating the multicast packet for each "next hop"; ~~and~~

sending ACKs and/or NAKs between an intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 13, further comprising the instruction for:

forwarding a copy of the multicast packet to each "next hop".

15. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 14, further comprising the instructions for:

repetitively executing the determining, replicating and forwarding steps for each newly received multicast packet.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 13, further comprising the instructions for:

processing ACKs and/or NAKs NAKs from a reliable multicast packet transmission; and

performing multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

17. (Currently Amended) An intermediate node for distributing web content objects efficiently across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the intermediate node comprising:

a reception unit for receiving a multicast packet containing address information for a set of destinations;

a determination unit for determining a "next hop" for each of the destinations; ~~and~~

a copying unit for replicating the multicast packet for each of the "next hops"; and

a processor for sending ACKs and/or NAKs between the intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit.

18. (Currently Amended) The intermediate node as defined in claim 17, further comprising:

a forwarding unit for forwarding a copy of the multicast packet to each of the "next hops".

19. (Original) The intermediate node as defined in claim 18, further comprising:

a repeater unit for repetitively executing the determining, replicating and forwarding for a plurality of multicast packets.

20. (Currently Amended) The intermediate node as defined in claim 17 ~~49~~, further comprising:

an ~~acknowledge~~ acknowledgement unit for processing ACKs and/or ~~NAKs~~ NAKs from a reliable multicast transmission; and

a retransmit unit for handling packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

21. (New) An information processing unit for distributing web content objects reliably across a network of intermediate nodes and destination information processing units, the information processing unit comprising:

an originating unit for transmitting a multicast packet containing address information for a set of networked destinations;

an acknowledgement unit for processing ACKs and/or NAKs received from a node of a network, the received ACKs and/or NAKs corresponding to a reliable multicast transmission with a destination information processing unit; and

a retransmit unit for handling multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

22. (New) A destination information processing unit for receiving web content objects reliably distributed across a network of intermediate nodes and information processing units, the destination information processing unit comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving a packet corresponding to a reliable multicast transmission to the destination information processing unit; and

an acknowledgement unit, communicatively coupled with the receiving unit, for transmitting ACKs and/or NAKs to a node of a network, the ACKs and/or NAKs corresponding to the reliable multicast transmission.